

Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation/  
City Interdisciplinary Transportation Team Meeting  
Wednesday June 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes

**Members present:**

Charles Langalis, Judy Fraser, James Michel, Carol Chaney

**City Staff Present:**

Helen Reinecke-Wilt

**Agenda:**

1. Development Update
2. East Columbia St NTC Petition
3. Pedestrian Plan
4. Other Items
5. May 2006 meeting minutes approval

**Minutes:**

*1. Development Update:*

Helen Reinecke-Wilt provided the committee with an update on current projects and proposals – work on the Read building has begun and there has been no further information on the mixed-use building proposed for the Pearson Funeral Home site

*2. East Columbia Street NTC citizen meeting*

As part of the NTC process the the citizens on East Columbia Street presented the committee with their concerns about traffic on their street. More than the minimum number of households required for continued consideration under the NTC process was represented. The neighbors expressed concern about the continuing increase in volume of traffic, speeding, and aggressive driving. They noted that there is an extremely large number of children use the school bus stop at the corner of N. Cherry, that sidewalks are narrow, have no safety margin (such as grass utility strips) and are obstructed at various points. Part of the street is a designated bicycle route. The low point at Noland appears to be a high speed location and the hill on the north side makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Parking patterns mean that there is a lot of weaving in and out which seemed to make passage more dangerous. One resident noted that her parked car has been side swiped twice. Some neighbors noted the stop signs at Cherry and Van Buren are routinely ignored. They noted that there are no stop bars and some places where crosswalks could be added and that there is sidewalk only on one side of the street. They seemed to be in agreement that the worst times are rush hours. Backing out of driveways is difficult. One resident noted that the combination of school buses, bicyclists and commercial vans and narrow, hilly is especially worrisome. Another noted that this has been a very long term problem and that snowy days are the worst. Another added that the volume and speed are not a great concern to him and doesn't want any onerous restrictions or impediments. The committee agreed to recommend that public

works go ahead and add reflector strips to the stop signs and add stop bars and/or crosswalks where appropriate. The committee then thanked the residents for their time, outlined the next steps in the NTC process, including the gathering of volume, speed and accident data early in the fall.

### *3. Pedestrian Plan*

The committee discussed the next steps for the pedestrian plan. Helen Reinecke-Wilt provided the committee members with excerpts from the Comprehensive Plan that relate to pedestrian concerns and suggested to the committee that it would be appropriate to incorporate specific actions in the pedestrian plan that relate back directly to the goals and strategies in the Comprehensive Plan. In response to Helen's query about the current format of the draft plan, Judy Fraser said that her understanding is that the committee is in favor of an overall policy statement as the basis of the document and then there is a section of discussion about the benefits of a pedestrian plan for Falls Church and finally a section of recommended actions which is still unorganized, and the facility scan which identifies specific places in need of corrective action. Jim Michel added that there is a summary description of actions for the city to take to incorporate into the recommendations section. The committee members agreed to review the lists of action items currently in the draft plan and come back to the committee in July with any ideas for the best way to organize and prioritize the action items.

### *4. Other Items*

Helen Reinecke-Wilt informed the committee of the upcoming City Center meeting in July and asked that one or two committee members try and attend as representatives of the CACT.

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